

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3166

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG UNESCO IS

SUBJ: VISIT OF PROFESSOR LEMAIRE TO ISRAEL

REF: PARIS 12286

1. WE DISCUSSED THE VISIT OF PROFESSOR LEMAIRE TO JERUSALEM THIS WEEK WITH MORDECHAI KIDRON, MFA DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. KIDRON SAID THAT LEMAIRE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AVINERI AND HIMSELF, IN ADDITION TO VISITING THE EXCAVATIONS AND HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS THERE.

2. IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH ALLON, LEMAIRE SAID THAT IF THE EXCAVATIONS COULD BE STOPPED, EVERYBODY WOULD BE HAPPY. ALLON RESPONDED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUT POLITICAL. LEMAIRE CONCURRED, AND SAID THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN AMMAN JORDANIAN OFFICIALS ALSO WERE IN AGREEMENT; JORDANIAN CONCERN WAS NOT THE NATURE OF THE EXCAVATIONS BUT THEIR LOCATION.

3. ALLON SAID THAT ON NO ACCOUNT WOULD THE GOVERNMENT INTERVENE IN WHAT WAS CLEARLY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATTER. IF LEMAIRE COULD  
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PERSUADE THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO HOLD UP OR SLOW UP THEIR WORK THAT WOULD BE PERMISSIBLE, BUT IT MUST CLEARLY AND PUBLICLY BE

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC REASONS.

4. LEMAIRE TOLD KIDRON THAT THE ARCHAEOLOGIST IN CHARGE OF THE EXCAVATIONS WOULD SOON BEGIN TO WRITE UP THE PROJECT, AND HE REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT THIS RESPITE IN THE DIGGING WILL PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE TO ALL CONCERNED FOR AT LEAST A TEMPORARY CESSATION IN THE EXCAVATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** ARCHEOLOGY, MEETING AGENDA, SCIENTIFIC VISITS  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, IS, UNESCO, (ALLON, YIGAL), (LEMAIRE)  
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